

**THE
EDISON MEDIA
ARTS CONSORTIUM**

**THE
BLACK MARIA
FILM & VIDEO
FESTIVAL**

**THE
NEW JERSEY YOUNG
FILM & VIDEOMAKERS'
FESTIVAL**

**AND
PROGRAMATIC RESOURCES
ADVANCING MEDIA ARTS AND
EXPLORING PUBLIC ISSUES**

C/O JERSEY CITY STATE COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA ARTS, 203 WEST SIDE AVE., JERSEY CITY, NJ 07305

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**Ms. Donna Searcy
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Re: CFA and NCTA Joint Petition RM-8221

Dear Ms. Searcy:

We are a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance the appreciation and exhibition of independently produced contemporary film and video work which expands upon the expressive terrain of media art. We operate two projects:

(1) The Black Maria Film and Video Festival (named after Thomas Edison's Film Studio built in 1893 and the world's first exclusive motion picture production studio) which annually exhibits 50 competition-winning works (selected from

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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

It would seem timely to move forward with any new technologies that are physically/environmentally viable and responsible, enhance freedom of choice, and do not place a burden on the public. This appears to be the case with the Bell Atlantic network proposal. Delays in the testing and/or implementation of new options such as that above would seem to serve no purpose and would perpetuate the current limited access to distribution that independents have traditionally suffered with. Thus we advocate opening and expanding video channels in any legitimate, enlightened and open-spirited mode that human knowledge and technology makes possible within the parameters of

